

In the Claims:

1-51. (Canceled)

52. (New) A cell phone including radio receiver circuitry, a memory, a data capture system and a radiant-energy digital data transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that alters data captured by the data capture system in accordance with an encoding signal prior to transmission by the data transmission system, wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to generate an encoding signal that depends, at least in part, on information received by the radio receiver circuitry and stored in the memory.

53. (New) The cell phone of claim 52 in which the data capture system captures audio and includes a microphone.

54. (New) The cell phone of claim 52 in which the steganographic encoder is adapted to operate transparently to a user of the cell phone, wherein all of the data captured by the data capture system and transmitted by the cell phone is steganographically encoded.

55. (New) A method of operating a cell phone, comprising:
receiving input information;
receiving data wirelessly sent from a remote transmitter;
steganographically encoding the input information to hide a plural-bit auxiliary code therein, the encoding depending, at least in part, on the received data; and
transmitting the steganographically-encoded information by wireless in a digital format.

56. (New) The method of claim 55 which includes:
receiving the input information in non-digital form;
expressing the received information in digital form; and
encoding the digital form of the input information.

57. (New) The method of claim 56 in which the input information is audio information.

58. (New) The cell phone of claim 52 wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to combine an overlay signal with the data captured by the data capture system.

59. (New) The cell phone of claim 58 wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to generate an overlay signal that is dependent both on the plural-bit auxiliary code and on the data captured by the data capture system.

60. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein the steganographic encoding includes combining an overlay signal with the input information.

61. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the overlay signal is dependent both on the plural-bit auxiliary code and on the input information.

62. (New) A cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that modifies data captured by the data capture system in accordance with an encoding signal, to hide a plural-bit auxiliary code within the data prior to transmission by the data transmission system, the steganographic encoder being adapted to generate an encoding signal that depends - in part - on dynamics of the data.

63. (New) The cell phone of claim 62 in which the steganographic encoder is adapted to control an amplitude of the encoding signal, in part, in accordance with dynamics of the data.

64. (New) The cell phone of claim 62 further comprising wireless receiver circuitry that provides information to a memory, wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to generate an encoding signal that depends, in part, on the information in the memory.

65. (New) A cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that hides a plural-bit auxiliary code within data captured by the data capture system prior to transmission by the data transmission system, the steganographic encoder being adapted to introduce a pseudo-random signal to the data in which the hidden code is encoded.

66. (New) A cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that hides a plural-bit auxiliary code within host data captured by the data capture system prior to transmission by the data transmission system, the host data comprising sample values, and the steganographic encoder being adapted to increase certain of the sample values and decrease others.

67. (New) The cell phone of claim 66 wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to increase certain of the sample values between 7.5% and 100%.

68. (New) The cell phone of claim 66 wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to respond to dynamics of the host data in hiding of the plural-bit auxiliary code within the host data.

69. (New) A method of operating a cell phone, comprising:
receiving sampled input information;
steganographically encoding the input information to hide a plural-bit auxiliary code therein; and

transmitting the steganographically-encoded information from the cell phone in a digital format;

wherein the steganographically encoding comprises – in a pseudo-random fashion – increasing the values of certain samples and decreasing the values of other samples, the increasing and decreasing depending, in part, on dynamics of the sampled input information.

70. (New) The method of claim 55 that further includes wirelessly communicating an identifier from the cell phone, wherein said plural-bit auxiliary code is at least partially redundant with said identifier, so that at least part of said identifier is sent from the cell phone in two different manners.

71. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein said plural-bit auxiliary code comprises an identifier uniquely identifying the cell phone, rather than identifying the input information or a user of cell phone.

72. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to generate an encoding signal that also depends – in part – on dynamics of the data